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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1419
INFO RUEHTH/AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY 0289
RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY 0586
RUEHSW/AMEMBASSY BERN PRIORITY 2905
RUEHBS/AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY 4952
RUEHCP/AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY 4839
RUEHDL/AMEMBASSY DUBLIN PRIORITY 0113
RUEHHE/AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PRIORITY 1493
RUEHLI/AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY 1648
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 0794
RUEHLE/AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG PRIORITY 1599
RUEHNY/AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY 2423
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY 2704
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY 1215
RUEHPG/AMEMBASSY PRAGUE PRIORITY 1035
RUEHRK/AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK PRIORITY 0022
RUEHRA/AMEMBASSY RIGA PRIORITY 0084
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY 2005
RUEHSM/AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY 3076
RUEHTL/AMEMBASSY TALLINN PRIORITY 0107
RUEHTC/AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY 7234
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SUBJECT: SPAIN ON IRAN'S FLAWED ELECTIONS

REF: STATE 192971

Classified By: DCM Hugo Llorens for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

11. (C) The DCM discussed Iran's upcoming elections with MFA Director General for Foreign Policy Rafael Dezcallar on December 5. Reviewing reftel talking points, the DCM emphasized the U.S. objective of highlighting the profound flaws in the Iranian electoral process.

12. (C) Dezcallar said that Spain realizes that the democratic system in Iran is highly imperfect, and Spain laments the apparent shifting of influence from more moderate voices to the extremist positions of Khomeini and Ahmedinejad. He said that Ahmedinejad was the driving force of a populist nationalism in Iran that promotes one-dimensional answers to the country's complex problems.

13. (C) However, Dezcallar underlined that Spain does not consider Iran a totalitarian society, though he conceded that it is an authoritarian regime. He said that Iran is in reality more open than its exterior of Islamic theocracy suggests. Spain feels that a small amount of political space exists for moderate voices, and Dezcallar said that Spain will continue to work with the EU to try to create more space for moderates in Iran.

14. (C) Dezcallar said that Spain would take note of the U.S. position. He added that, while Spain understands U.S. apprehension toward Iran and would not presume to tell the U.S. how to conduct foreign policy, Spain would view direct contact between Tehran and Washington at some future point as a positive development.

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Llorens